been announced on 22nd April, 1995 which allows 100 per cent Free Sale Quota to small growers having holding size below 10 hect. and 70 per cent Free Sale Quota to the rest of the growers. It is not practicable in the liberalised trade regime to fix economic price for coffee in the domestic market.

Dumping of China

5093. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China is "dumping" its products in India which forced closure of some Indian companies;

(b) if so, what action has been taken against such "dumping"; and

(c) the initiative taken to prevent "dumping"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): The Designated Authority for Anti-Dumping in the Ministry of Commerce has received petitions alleging dumping of certain products from China. However, no information is available with the Designated Authority about the closure of any Indian Company as a result of dumping by China.

(b) The Designated Authority has initiated investigation in cases where there was prima-facie evidence of dumping and material injury to the domestic industry therefrom. Provisional duties have been recommended and levied wherever found necessary.

(c) An Anti-dumping Division has been formed in the Ministry of assist the Designated Authority in investigating "dumping" allegations. Further, amendments have been made to Customs Tariff Act, 1975 and the Customs Tariff (Identification, Assessment and Collection of Duty or Additional Duty on Dumped Articles for Determination of Injury) Rules, 1995 have been framed to deal effectively with dumping.

New categorisation by EO Introducing different rates of traiffs

5094. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the European Union (EU) introduced a new categorisation of various States to introduce different rate of traiffs;

(b) if so, to what extent this will affect Indian exports to these EU countries; and

(c) steps taken to minimise the damage to our exports to EU countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) One of the salient features of the European Union's new GSP scheme, which entered into force on 1st January 1995, is "graduation". Under this policy, countries with a per capita GNP of over US $6000 in 1991 will get only 50% of GSP benefits w.e.f. 1st April 1995 and will be excluded from GSP altogether w.e.f. 1st January 1996. Countries with per capita GNP of less than US 6000 will have a 50% reduction of benefits w.e.f. 1st January 1997 in sectors where they have achieved a high degree of trade specialisation, with GSP benefits withdrawn altogether for these sectors w.e.f. 1st January 1998.

The graduation mechanism will also apply to beneficiary countries whose exports of products covered by GSP in a given sector exceed 25% of all beneficiary countries exports to the Community in that sector. For

the concerned countries and sectors thus identified, preferential access will end from 1st January 1996.

The impact of the EU's new GSP scheme on our exports will be moderated by the act that our principal competitors will be equally affected. The trade statistics for January 1995 show that our exports to EU during the period have increased substantially over the same period in 1994.

India-Mauritius joint business council meeting

5095. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level business team participated in the meeting organised by the India-Mauritius Joint Business Council in recent past at Port Louis;

(b) if so, the details thereof with background;

(c) whether this joint meet will boost trade prospects of both the countries; and

(d) if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A high powered business delegation visited Mauritius to participate in the meeting of the Indo-Mauritius Joint Business Council on 18th and 19th April, '95 and to hold discussions on various issues connected with promoting Indo-Mauritius bilateral trade and investment opportunities as well as to resolve bottlenecks.

(c) and (d) Based on the descussions concluded in the JBC meeting at Port Louis (Mauritius), it is expected that the trade volume between India and Mauritius would double by the end of 1996-97.

Market for leather products in EU countries

5096. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge market is available for leather products in European Union countries particularly Germany;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take some measures to ensure that Indian leather industry makes use of such market; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The European Union countries account for approximately 40% global imports of leather products One of the leading countries amongst these is Germany which accounts for about 15 per cent of the global imports.

(c) and (d) The European Union countries are major markets for exports of our leather and leather products. Efforts are being made to enhance our market share through participation in fairs, technical upgradation and encouraging joint ventures.

Heavy us tariff on Indian Steel

5097. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 836 given in the Rajya Sabha on 20th March, 1995 and state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Heavy US traiff on Indian Steel" as reported in 'The Statesman' dated 6.2.95;